

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

A

05/06/98
JCS05 U.S. PTO

In Re Application of

Janie McKittrick

Prior Serial No.: 08/614,158

Atty Docket No.: 6339

Filed: Herewith

Title: RAKE HAVING
ENHANCED LEVERAGE

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

TRANSMITTAL OF
APPLICATION UNDER
37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) and
PRELIMINARY
AMENDMENT

This is a request for filing a continuation application under 37 CFR §1.53(b) of pending prior application Serial No. 08/614,158 filed on March 8, 1996 of Janie McKittrick for **Rake Having Enhanced Leverage**. Enclosed are the following items:

- A copy of the prior application (9 pages containing specification, 2 pages containing original claims, 1 page abstract, 1 page cover Sheet, and 2 pages of informal drawings) from Ser. No. 08/614,158, filed March 8, 1996;
- A copy of the oath or declaration as originally filed;
- A copy of the Revocation and New Power of Attorney as originally filed;
- A copy of the Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status as originally filed;
- A check in the amount of \$ 395.00 to cover the filing fee for the continuation application and Preliminary Amendment (calculation shown below);

Express Mail mailing label number

EM 359 931 954 US

Date of Deposit

May 6, 1998

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231

Elvina Smith

Name

Elvina Smith

Signature

- Preliminary Amendment;
- Submission of Proposed Drawing Amendments for Approval by Examiner, 37 C.F.R. 1.123; and
- Return Receipt Postcard.

Verification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.53

I hereby verify that the enclosed prior application is a true copy of the prior application (including the specification, original claims, abstract, and drawings). This application was originally filed March 8, 1996 (Serial No. 08/614,158). I also hereby verify that the enclosed copy of the oath or declaration is a true copy of the oath or declaration filed in the original application (Ser. No. 08/614,158).

Inventorship Statement

The inventor in this application is the same as the one in the prior copending U.S. application (Ser. No. 08/614,158) from which this application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120.

Assignee

The prior application is not assigned.

Power Of Attorney

The power of attorney in the prior application was originally granted to Terrance L. Siemens, Reg. No. 32,382. This Power of Attorney was revoked and subsequently granted to Ronald J. Brown, Reg. No. 29,016; David E. Bruhn, Reg. No. 36,762; Eugene L. Johnson, Reg. No. 21,028; David N. Fronek, Reg. No. 25,678; Stuart R. Hemphill, Reg. No. 28,084; Devan V. Padmanabhan, Reg. No. 38,262; Mark A. Wolfe, Reg. No. 36,311; Kenneth E. Levitt, Reg. No. 39,747; Erik R. Nordstrom, Reg. No. 39,792; Gerald H. Sullivan, Reg. No. 37,243; and Jon F. Tuttle, Reg. No. 25,713, all of Dorsey & Whitney LLP, 220 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-1498.

Copies of the original power of attorney and revocation/new power of attorney are enclosed herein.

Address For Future Correspondence

Address all future communications to: Devan Padmanabhan, Dorsey & Whitney LLP, 220 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402, (612) 343-7990.

Amendment and Cancellation of Claims

Amend the specification by inserting as the first sentence on page 1 before the BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION the following: --This is a continuation of copending application Serial No. 08/614,158, filed March 8, 1996.

Please cancel claims 5 and 6 and further amend the application in accordance with the enclosed Preliminary Amendment.

Filing Fee Calculation

The filing fee is based on the claims as filed in the prior application and also taking into account the claims canceled above:

				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Entity		<input type="checkbox"/> Other than Small Entity	
Basic Filing Fee					\$395.00		\$790.00
Additional Fees:				(rate)		(rate)	
Total Claims		No. Extra	0	\$11.00		\$22.00	
Indep. Claims		No. Extra	0	\$41.00		\$82.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple dependent claim presented				\$135.00		\$270.00	
BASIC FILING FEE TOTAL					\$395.00		

Preliminary Amendment

A Preliminary Amendment is also enclosed, in which additional claims have been added. The fee for the Preliminary Amendment has been calculated as follows:

				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Entity		<input type="checkbox"/> Other than Small Entity	
Total Claims	9	No. Extra	0	\$11.00	\$0.00	\$22.00	
Indep. Claims	2	No. Extra	0	\$41.00	\$0.00	\$82.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple dependent claim presented				\$135.00		\$270.00	
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TOTAL					\$0.00		
**TOTAL					\$395.00		


Deposit Account Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 04-1420. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Janie McKittrick

Dated: May 6, 1998

By: 
Erik R. Nordstrom (Reg. No. 39,792)
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
Pillsbury Center South
220 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1498
(612) 340-2789

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Janie McKittrick

Serial No.: [Not Yet Known]

Group Art Unit: [Not Yet Known]

Filed: Herewith

Examiner: [Not Yet Known]

Title: RAKE HAVING ENHANCED LEVERAGE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants hereby submit the enclosed amendments accompanying the filing of a continuation application under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b).

In the Drawings:

Applicant submits the following proposed change for approval by the Examiner:

On sheet 2/2, Figure 2, changing reference numeral "26" to -28-.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.123, Applicant submits herewith a formal Submission of Proposed Drawing Amendments for Approval by the Examiner with the attached drawing showing the proposed change.

In the Specification

In the title, please replace "RAKE HAVING ENHANCED LEVERAGE" with --GARDEN TOOL HAVING ENHANCED LEVERAGE--.

At line 4 on page 8, please replace "frame member is arranged" with --garden implement 10 is arranged--.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1 and 3, and add new claims 7-11 as follows:

09073643-030699

1. (Amended) A hand held gardening implement, comprising

a frame member having a longitudinal dimension, a proximal end, and a distal end;

a working element [attached to] adjacent said frame member at said proximal end of said frame member[, said working element projecting downwardly and vertically from said frame member];

a brace attached to said frame member [at] adjacent said distal end of said frame member, wherein said brace has a forearm engaging surface; and

a handle attached to said frame member intermediate said working element and said brace, said handle [projecting upwardly and vertically] projecting away from said frame member generally transversely with respect to the longitudinal dimension of [from] said frame member, wherein the forearm engaging surface is directed in the opposite direction as the projection of the handle.

3. (Amended) The gardening implement according to claim 1, said forearm engaging surface of said brace further comprising an elastic cushion for deforming to distribute force developed by the hand and arm of the user over an increased area of the forearm of the user.

7. (New) The gardening implement of claim 1, wherein the forearm engaging surface is curved to conform about a user's forearm.

8. (New) A hand held gardening implement, comprising:

a frame member having a longitudinal dimension, a proximal end, and a distal end;

a working element adjacent said frame member at said proximal end of said

frame member;

a brace attached to said frame member adjacent said distal end of said frame member, wherein said brace has a forearm engaging portion; and

a handle attached to said frame member intermediate said working element and said brace, said handle projecting away from said frame member generally transversely with respect to the longitudinal dimension of said frame member, wherein the forearm engaging portion is not in the same general plane as the frame member.

9. (New) The gardening implement according to claim 6, said working element including a plurality of tines, whereby said gardening implement is a rake.

10. (New) The gardening implement according to claim 6, said forearm engaging portion of said brace further comprising an elastic cushion for deforming to distribute force developed by the hand and arm of the user over an increased area of the forearm of the user.

11. (New) The gardening implement according to claim 6, said handle further comprising a molded grip for conforming to the configuration of the human hand.

Remarks


This preliminary amendment is being filed with the Rule 53(b) continuation of parent application Serial No. 08/614,158 in which claims 1-4 were retained. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended, and claims 7-11 have been added. Thus, claims 1-4 and 7-11 are currently pending.

Early examination and allowance of this case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Janie McKittrick

Date: May 6, 1998

By 
Erik R. Nordstrom (Reg. No. 39,792)
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
Pillsbury Center South
220 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-1498
Telephone: 612/340-2789

Attorney for Applicant

*A patent could be
your most valuable asset...*

- Carlson
Inventor of the photocopier

Martin E. Keller

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 10051
Alexandria, VA 22310

M.E. Keller
Complete Patent
Services



Office: (703) 941-3116
Fax: (703) 941-3024
In Washington D.C.
24 hr. Voice Mail:
(202) 686-4609

IN THE APPLICATION

OF

JANIE MCKITTRICK

FOR A

RAKE HAVING ENHANCED LEVERAGE



Janie A. McKittrick
Pat Greene
Owners

4901 Frontenac Avenue North
Golden Valley, MN 55422-4101
612-521-5318 Phone & Fax

RAKE HAVING ENHANCED LEVERAGE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a garden tool having
tines and a handle. More specifically, the novel tool
further comprises a handle disposed normally to the
longitudinal dimension of the tool and oriented upwardly,
and an arm brace for engaging the forearm. The arm brace
enhances leverage or force which may be applied to force the
10 tines downwardly into the soil. Upward orientation of the
handle provides more comfortable grasp, which further
enhances the force which may be developed by the hand and
arm combined.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

15 Garden rakes, particularly small rakes held in one
hand, are employed by gardeners for both raking and digging
purposes. This type of tool is quite useful in clearing
dead plant growth from the surface of the soil, for
separating roots from soil, and for digging shallow holes
20 and trenches for planting.

From time to time, resistance encountered while
performing these tasks varies considerably, possibly
requiring force beyond that which may be developed while
grasping the handle of the tool. The prior art has
25 suggested numerous arm braces which may be exploited for

enhancing force applied to the blade, tines, or other working element of the tool.

U.S. Pat. No. 2,710,571, issued to Frederick W. Pfister on June 14, 1955 illustrates a tined garden rake having a handle and an arm brace. Unlike the tool of Pfister, the handle of the present invention is vertically oriented when the tines face the ground. This orientation of the handle affords grip which is slightly more natural, comfortable, and therefore fatigue resistant than the horizontal orientation of Pfister's handle. Greater force can be developed and applied by a user in the present invention than occurs with Pfister's arrangement.

U.S. Pat. No. 712,843, issued to Ralph H. Paul on November 4, 1902 describes an arm brace in combination with a vertical handle. However, the working element of the tool is aligned with the longitudinal dimension of the tool. This orientation is suitable for forward movement of the tool. However, unlike the present invention, this arrangement does not enable downward force to be applied to the working element when the longitudinal dimension of the tool is horizontal, or parallel to the ground. Also, the brace requires fastening of a strap for effectiveness. By contrast, in the instant invention, the working element is perpendicular to the longitudinal dimension and oriented opposite the handle with respect to the longitudinal dimension. The brace lacks a strap, having instead a cushioned bar. Paul's device has a scraping blade, which is unlike the tines of the present invention in structure and purpose.

5 A similar device is shown in U.S. Pat. No. 4,888,846,
issued to Thomas Natale on December 26, 1989. Natale has a
working element disposed in alignment with the longitudinal
dimension of his tool. Unlike the present invention, this
arrangement does not enable downward force to be applied to
the working element when the longitudinal dimension of the
tool is horizontal, or parallel to the ground. Natale's
device has a scraping blade, which is unlike the tines of
the present invention in structure and purpose.

10 U.S. Pat. No. 4,822,087, issued to Tony J. DeCarlo on
April 18, 1989, features a tool having a vertical handle and
an arm brace. However, the arm brace is disposed to be
ineffective if DeCarlo's tool were forced into the ground at
its working element. This arrangement is opposite that of
15 the present invention. Also, DeCarlo's working element is
flaccid, unlike that of the present invention. Therefore,
the purpose of the present invention cannot be realized by
DeCarlo's invention. DeCarlo's working element has no
relation to piercing the ground or to raking action, unlike
20 the present invention.

None of the above inventions and patents, taken either
singly or in combination, is seen to describe the instant
invention as claimed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 The present invention provides an inexpensively
fabricated tool well suited for development and application
of downward force for a rake, scoop, or hand shovel. In an
advancement of the prior art, the handle is advantageously

oriented for development and application of downward force by one hand and arm, when compared to the horizontal orientation of the Pfister device. The handle is turned vertically upwardly with respect to the longitudinal dimension of the tool. This results in a more natural and comfortable position of the hand, wrist, and arm. More force is developed, and can be maintained for longer periods of time.

Apart from the working element, which is preferably a plurality of tines, but which may also be a flat blade or otherwise configured, the principal component of the tool is formed from rod stock. This rod stock is appropriately bent, and provided with a cushioned brace for engaging the forearm of the user and a handle for grasping by hand.

When fabricating the tool, no one bend need be greater than ninety degrees. Therefore, less complicated jigs may be employed than would be the case if Pfister's tool were similarly formed.

Pfister's tool has the characteristic that the handle is disposed between the working element and the brace. This arrangement is suitable for a horizontal handle. However, complications in fabrication occur if the handle is to be vertical. For example, either the handle must be welded or otherwise connected to a longitudinal member of the tool, or, if fabricated from a single piece of rod stock, must be bent double in order to form a vertical handle.

Accordingly, it is a principal object of the invention to provide a hand held gardening tool having a handle and a

working element for piercing the ground, which tool enhances downward force developed and applied by the user.

5 It is another object of the invention to orient the handle vertically, for more natural and comfortable grasp of the handle when the user's arm is near and parallel to the ground.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a brace for engaging the arm and enhancing force applied to the tool by only one arm.

10 Still another object of the invention is to enable the tool to be fabricated by bending rod stock material.

15 It is an object of the invention to provide improved elements and arrangements thereof in an apparatus for the purposes described which is inexpensive, dependable and fully effective in accomplishing its intended purposes.

These and other objects of the present invention will become readily apparent upon further review of the following specification and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Various other objects, features, and attendant advantages of the present invention will become more fully appreciated as the same becomes better understood when
5 considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the invention.

Fig. 2 is an environmental, perspective view of the
10 invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Turning now to Fig. 1 of the drawings, the novel garden implement 10 is a hand held rake having tines 12, a handle 14, and a brace 16. The principal component of garden
15 implement 10 is a frame member 18 which defines a longitudinal dimension or axis indicated at 20. Tines 12 are attached to frame member 18 at the proximal end of frame member 18, and brace 16 is attached to frame member 18 at the distal end thereof.

20 It should be noted that in other embodiments (not shown), garden implement 10 may comprise a small spade or still another tool. These embodiments would result were a working element other than the plurality of tines 12 provided. For example, the working element could be a
25 shovel or spade blade (neither shown). Regardless of the specific embodiment of the working element, the working

element projects downwardly towards the soil and vertically from frame member 18.

Handle 14 attaches to frame member 18 intermediate the working element, in the embodiment the working element depicted being tines 12, and brace 16. Handle 14 projects upwardly and vertically from frame member 18. A molded grip 22 configured to conform to the human hand is provided on handle 14 for enhanced grasp. Grip 22 increases the diameter of frame member 18, and further includes depressions 23 for receiving the user's fingers (not shown). Optionally, grip 22 may be resilient.

Brace 16 is similarly improved by incorporating a cushion 24. Cushion 24 is elastic or resilient, and deforms when pressing against the arm (not shown) of the user responsive to the user exerting increasing force on the working element of garden implement 10. This deformation distributes force developed by the hand and arm of the user over an increased area of the forearm of the user.

It is contemplated that an advantageous method of fabrication is achieved by bending rod stock to form frame member 18. Rod stock is a homogeneous, unitary member which may be subjected to bending to achieve a required shape. Other fabrication techniques, such as welding, brazing, friction fitting, for adding components other than the working element are not required.

In the preferred embodiment, wherein the working element comprises three tines 12, frame member 18 may itself form one tine 12 at its proximal end 26. If the working

element is otherwise arranged, a separate working element (not shown) may be suitably joined to frame member 18, as by welding or forging. Regardless of the embodiment and method of fabrication, frame member is arranged in sequential fashion along frame member 18. This signifies that after bending, frame member 18 connects tines 12 to handle 14, then sequentially to brace 16. There is no branching of frame member 18 required to provide and connect the working element, handle 14, and brace 16.

Right and left side tines 12 may be formed from a shorter section of rod stock, appropriately bent and shaped, and welded at a point generally designated 28. Alternatively, tines 12 may be provided as a separate assembly (not shown) which is subsequently joined to frame member 18.

The improved garden implement 10 is employed by grasping in the manner illustrated in Fig. 2. With the forearm A of the user passing beneath brace 16, the user's hand H grasps handle 14 with the fingers F encircling grip 22. The user then exerts downward force at handle 14 while either maintaining forearm A at a constant position above the ground or applying upward force at brace 16. Leverage developed by this manner of operation assists in urging tines 12 into the ground.

It will be obvious to those of skill in the art that still other fabrication techniques and arrangements may be employed without departing from the inventive concept.

It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the embodiments described above, but encompasses any and all embodiments within the scope of the following claims.

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A hand held gardening implement, comprising
a frame member having a longitudinal dimension, a proximal end, and a distal end;
a working element attached to said frame member at said proximal end of said frame member, said working element projecting downwardly and vertically from said frame member;
a brace attached to said frame member at said distal end of said frame member; and
a handle attached to said frame member intermediate said working element and said brace, said handle projecting upwardly and vertically from said frame member.
2. The gardening implement according to claim 1, said working element including a plurality of tines, whereby said gardening implement is a rake.
3. The gardening implement according to claim 1, said brace further comprising an elastic cushion for deforming to distribute force developed by the hand and arm of the user over an increased area of the forearm of the user.
4. The gardening implement according to claim 1, said handle further comprising a molded grip for conforming to the configuration of the human hand.
5. The gardening implement according to claim 1, said frame member comprising rod stock bent to form said working element, said brace, and said handle in sequential fashion from a unitary component.

6. A hand held gardening implement, comprising
a frame member having a longitudinal dimension, a
proximal end, and a distal end;

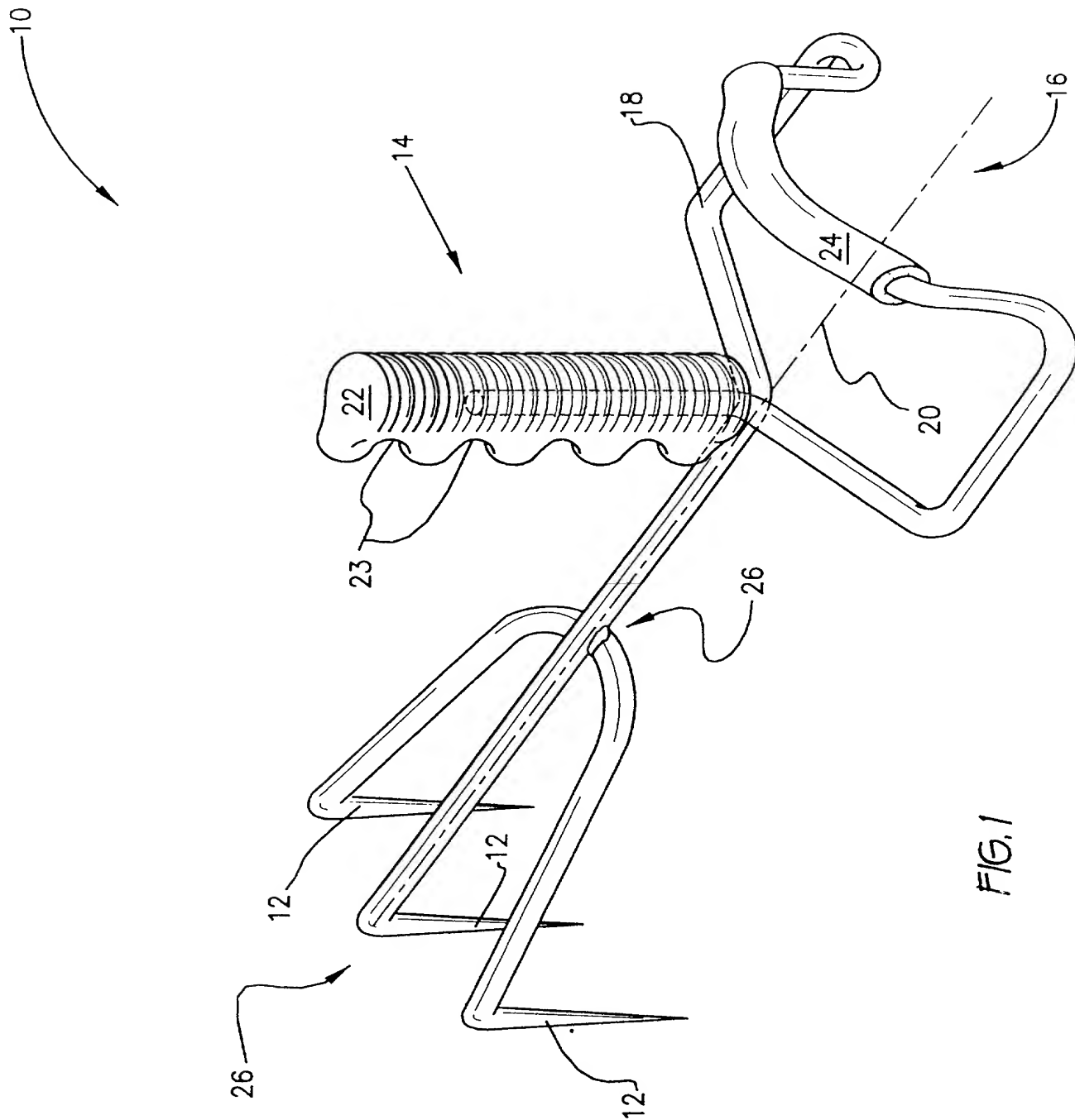
a plurality of tines attached to said frame member at
said proximal end of said frame member, said plurality of
tines projecting downwardly and vertically from said frame
member;

a brace attached to said frame member at said distal
end of said frame member, said brace further comprising an
elastic cushion for deforming to distribute force developed
by the hand and arm of the user over an increased area of
the forearm of the user; and

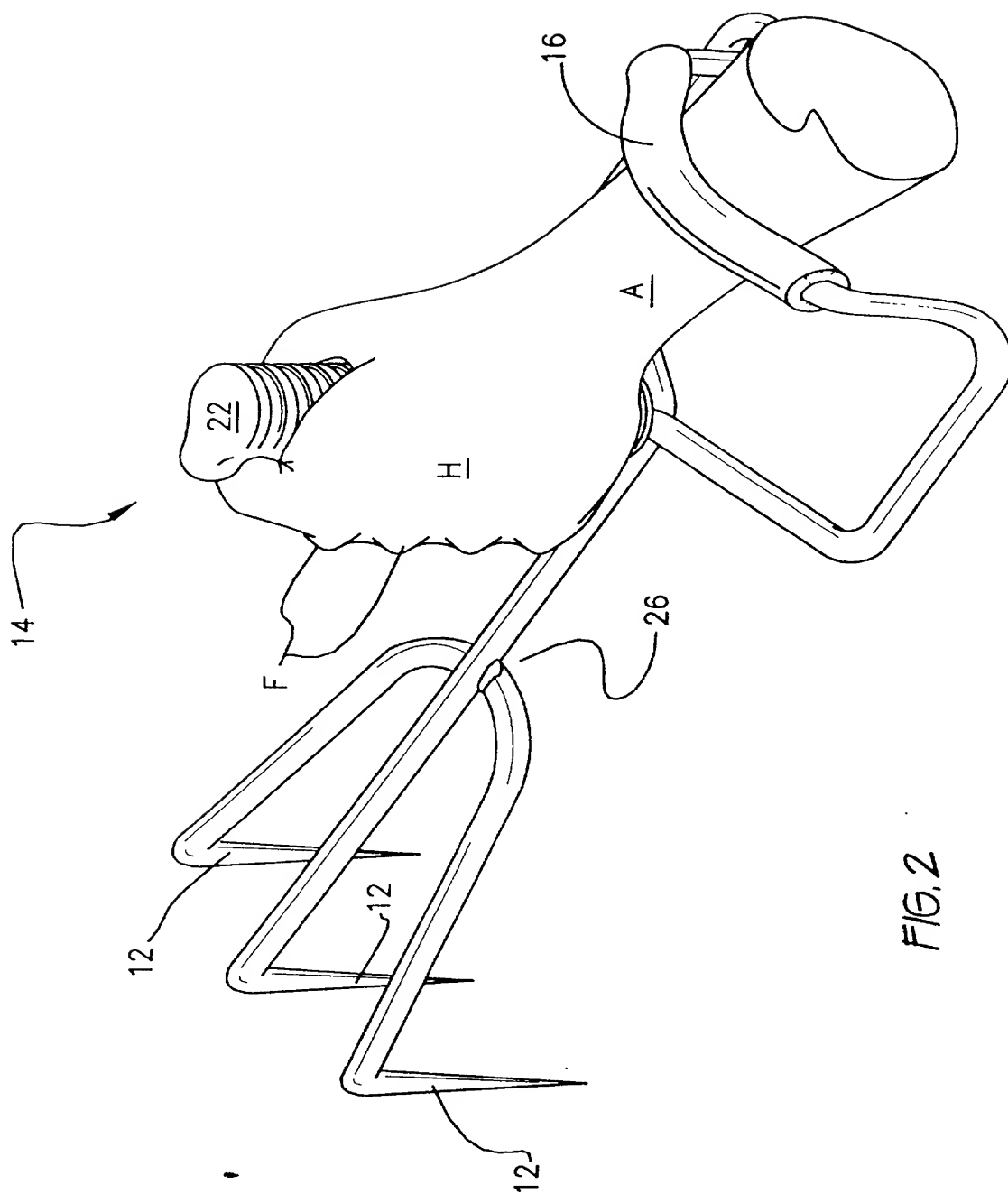
a handle attached to said frame member intermediate
said working element and said brace, said handle projecting
upwardly and vertically from said frame member, said handle
further comprising a molded grip for conforming to the
configuration of the human hand, said frame member
comprising rod stock bent to form said working element, said
brace, and said handle from a unitary, homogeneous
component.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A hand held garden rake configured to enhance downward force for digging and raking. The rake has a rod frame which extends from tines located at the front end of the rake to a brace located at the rear of the rake. The frame is bent to extend back towards the front end of the rake, at which point the frame terminates in an upwardly extending handle. The brace rests on the forearm, so that additional force is developed when the tines of the rake are urged downwardly into the ground. The vertical orientation of the handle is more natural and comfortable than would be a horizontal orientation. The handle is provided with a molded grip for cooperating with a user's hand. The brace has a resilient cushion for comfort when pressing downwardly on the tines.



8899566 A1 95.08.00



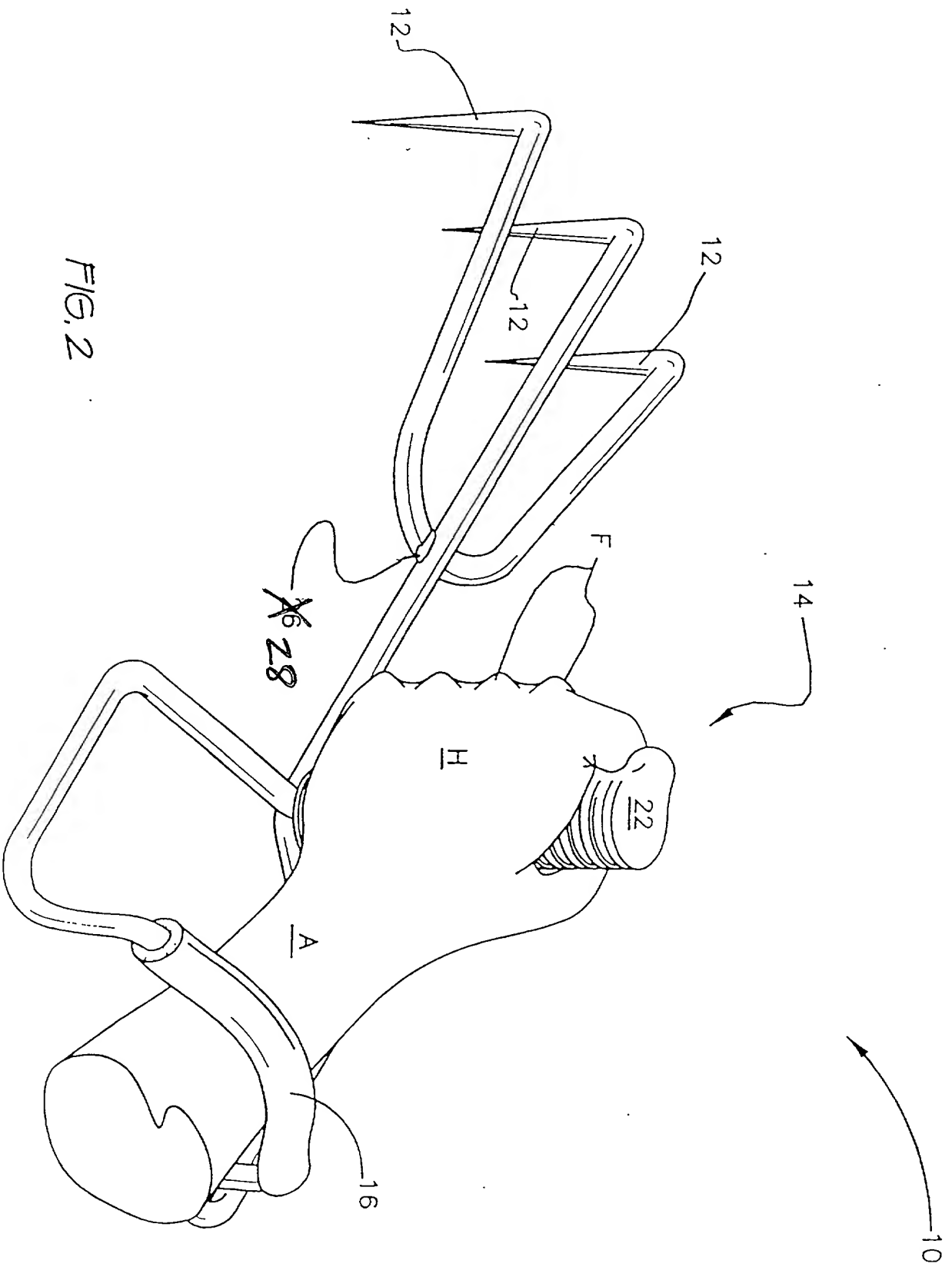


FIG. 2

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **RAKE HAVING ENHANCED LEVERAGE**, the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s): **NONE**

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Prior United States Application(s): **NONE**

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following Agent to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Terrance L. Siemens
Registration No. 32,382

Send Correspondence to: Terrance L. Siemens
PO Box 2832
Fairfax, VA 22031

Direct Telephone calls to: Terrance L. Siemens
(703) 685-5226

Full name of first inventor: **JANIE McKITTRICK**

Inventor's signature

Date: **x 02-24-96**

Residence: 4901 Frontenac Avenue, Golden Valley, MN 55422
Post Office Address: Same
Citizenship: United States of America

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Janie McKittrick

Serial No.: 08/614,58

Filed: March 8, 1996

For: RAKE HAVING ENHANCED
LEVERAGE

I hereby certify that the document is being deposited
with the United States Postal Service as first class mail
in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

October 9, 1997

(Date of Deposit)

Catherine A. Lawrence

(Name)

Catherine A. Lawrence

Signature

October 9, 1997

Date of Signature

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REVOCATION AND NEW POWER OF ATTORNEY

Janie McKittrick, owner of the above-identified patent application,
hereby revokes all previous Powers of Attorney in said application and appoints
Ronald J. Brown (29,016), David E. Bruhn (36,762), Eugene L. Johnson (21,028), David
N. Fronek (25,678), Stuart R. Hemphill (28,084), Devan V. Padmanabhan (38,262),
Mark A. Wolfe (36,311), Kenneth E. Levitt (39,747), Erik R. Nordstrom (39,792),
Gerald H. Sullivan (37,243), and Jon F. Tuttle (25,713), all of Dorsey & Whitney LLP,
Pillsbury Center South, 220 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402,
(612) 340-2600 to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in
connection therewith. Please address any future communications concerning this
patent application to Devan V. Padmanabhan

JANIE MCKITTRICK

Date: 09.08.97

Signature

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
[37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)] - INDEPENDENT INVENTORS

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under sections 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code to the United States Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled:

RAKE HAVING ENHANCED LEVERAGE

described in

- ☒ the specification filed herewith
☐ application serial number _____ filed _____
☐ patent number _____ issued _____

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights to this invention is listed below:

- ☒ no such person or organization
☐ persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

*Note: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
[] Individual [] Small Business Concern [] Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
[] Individual [] Small Business Concern [] Nonprofit Organization

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or parent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. [37 CFR 1.28(b)]

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Full name of first inventor: JANIE McKITTRICK

Inventor's signature

Janie McKittrick

Date: x

02-04-96
02-24-96